

Message Text

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47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00

OMB-01 /094 W

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P 221725Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5529

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

PAN CANAL PRIORITY

USSOUTHCOM PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 6483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, EINV, EEW, PN

SUBJECT: RUSSIANS ARE COMING TO PANAMA

REF: PANAMA 6429

1. ON OCCASION AMBASSADOR'S MONTHLY MEETING WITH AMERICAN
BUSINESSMEN OCTOBER 21, CHASE MANHATTAN REP REEVES REPORTED
FOLLOWING TO ECON/COM COUNSELOR:

2. ALTHOUGH MOSCOW-NORODMY BANK CHAIRMAN SCHEVCHENKO "NORMALLY
CLOSE-MOUTHERD", HE (REEVES) GOT DISTINCT IMPRESSION SHEVCHENKO
FAVORABLY CONSIDERING ESTABLISHMENT BRANCH IN PANAMA. THIS
MAY TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS BECAUSE OF TIME-CONSUMING GOP BANKING
COMMISSION FORMALITIES.

3. SHEVCHENKO AND HIS ASSOCIATE SMITH DEPARTING FOR HAVANA
VIA CUBANA AIRLINES OCTOBER 23.

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COMMENT: PRESUMABLY THE RUSSIANS ARE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN OFFSHORE OPERATIONS TO DEVELOP MARKETS FOR RUSSIAN PRODUCTS AND SERVICES IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN THRU THE COLON FREE TRADE ZONE. THE RUSSIAN MOVE MAY EVENTUALLY LEAD TO ESTABLISHMENT OF SOVIET DIPLOMATIC MISSION IN PANAMA. IT IS GOP'S POLICY TO OPEN ITS DOORS TO EVERYONE THUS DEMONSTRATING ITS INDEPENDENCE.

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Message Attributes

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